

OKINAWA MARINE

MAY 24, 2013

WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL



CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter 03 departs Marine Corps Air Station Futenma for the last time May 20. CH-46E-03 with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 was decommissioned and flown to Camp Kinser where it will be stored awaiting further disposition. HMM-262 is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

Sea Knight makes final flight

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 made its final flight May 20 after flying from Marine Corps Air

Station Futenma to Camp Kinser where it will await final disposition.

The CH-46E is one of twelve helicopters used by HMM-262 that will be phased-out during the next couple of months as the squadron transitions to the MV-22B Osprey later this summer, see **DECOMMISSION** pg 5

Futenma mainstay remembered

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — While service members transfer from one duty station to the next, Department of Defense civilian employees often spend significantly more time in one location and become not only the link between generations of service members, but also the face of their respective office.

Such was the case for David R. Cascarella, the airfield manager of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, who was as well-known for his tireless work ethic as he was for his brightly-colored dress shirts.

Cascarella passed away the morning of May 19 at Makiminato Chuou Hospital in Urasoe City, and his exuberant personality will be deeply missed by many, according to Maj. Geoffrey H. Baum, the airfield operations officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

Cascarella, affectionately called “Cas” by his colleagues, was a retired gunnery sergeant and Marine air traffic controller who operated the air station’s airfield for the past 15 years.

see **CASCARELLA** pg 5

Medical personnel lead disaster management conference

Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NISHIHARA, OKINAWA, Japan — More than 100 people attended a disaster preparedness, management and response conference May 17 at the University of the Ryukyus Hospital’s Okinawa Clinical Simulation Center in Nishihara.

Navy Capt. John P. LaBanc, the III Marine Expeditionary Force surgeon, and Dr. Ichiro Kukita, the university director of the emergency medicine department, invited medical professionals, students and professors from Japan and U.S. service members and Department of Defense employees to the conference to develop disaster relief response plans.

“In the Asia-Pacific region, and especially Japan, we realize that disasters are imminent, and we need to work together,” said LaBanc. “After last year’s conference, we wanted to get the word out about the importance of it and about building relationships with the medical community now before disaster strikes. This is our opportunity to work with the medical community throughout Japan.”

People attending the one-day conference heard presentations from both American and Japanese medical professionals who covered an overview see **DMEP** pg 5



Approximately 100 people were in attendance as U.S. Navy Capt. Miguel A. Cubano talks about his experiences dealing with earthquake relief efforts at a disaster management conference May 17 at the University of the Ryukyus Hospital’s Okinawa Clinical Simulation Center in Nishihara. Cubano is chief operations and medical director for Tricare Area Office-Pacific. Photo By Pfc. Kasey Peacock

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

9TH ESB TRAINS FOR DEPLOYMENT

Marines complete field training exercise.

PG. 6-7

MARINES BUILD RELATIONSHIPS DURING RICE-PLANTING EVENT

PG. 8

MARINES PAY RESPECT, RECEIVE EDUCATION DURING IWO JIMA TRIP

PG. 10

Memorial Day Message

Memorial day began as a way to remember fallen soldiers of the American Civil War, and today has become a time for Americans to commemorate all who have given their lives while serving in the military. Throughout our history, countless men and women have raised their right hands to answer our nation's call, risking their lives for their country. Whether on the battlefield of Gettysburg or the hills and valleys of Helmand province, Americans have paid, and continue to pay, the ultimate price in defense of our nation.

This Memorial Day, make time to remember the brave men and women who fought and died to maintain the security, freedom and American way of life we enjoy today. As Marines and sailors, we continue this proud tradition of service. It is our duty to honor the sacrifices of those who have given everything in the name of freedom.

Liberty commences as follows:

a. III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific military personnel, to include those stationed on Hawaii: May 25-28.

b. Civilian employees: supervisors of U.S. civilian appropriated fund employees may permit liberal leave procedures for their employees if mission and workload permit. The observed holiday for all civilian employees, U.S. and Japanese, is May 27. A liberal leave policy will be in effect May 28.

c. Camp Mujuk military personnel and civilian employees will continue to follow their previously announced holiday routine schedule.

Memorial Day also ushers in the summer season. With improving weather, many will take the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities with friends and family. Unfortunately, the summer is also a time when Marines and sailors have been injured or killed due to preventable accidents. Be vigilant and keep safety at the forefront of your thoughts and actions, and never forget that we have a mission to accomplish. Your nation needs you. Be safe, be smart, and watch out for each other.

During the liberty period, honor the fallen and make decisions that preserve our legacy.

Semper Fidelis

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF

Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler

**AROUND THE
CORPS**

Staff Sgt. Natividad Herrera holds his daughters for the first time in eight months during Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364's homecoming celebration at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 13. The squadron deployed Sept. 17, 2012 as the aviation combat element for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns



Lance Cpl. Anthony J. DiCola hoists Cpl. Kyle A. Alessandro into a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter May 10 during search and rescue training at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. The training will allow Alessandro to become one of the select few to call themselves a Marine Corps rescue swimmer. DiCola is a crew chief, and Alessandro is a rescue swimmer student. Both Marines are with Marine Transport Squadron 1, MCAS Cherry Point, Marine Corps Installations East. Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrea C. Dickerson

OKINAWA MARINE

The Okinawa Marine is published by Marine Corps Community Services under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan.

The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the Consolidated Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of military services stationed overseas, at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the U.S.

Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler or Marine Corps Community Services of the products and services advertised.

Everything advertised in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are "official U.S. Marine Corps photos." For more information, e-mail us at okinawamarine.mcb.fc@usmc.mil or write to us at Public Affairs Office, H&S BN MCB PAO, Unit 35002, FPO AP 96373-5002.

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer
PRESS OFFICER 2nd Lt. Luke B. Kuper
PRESS CHIEF Staff Sgt. Kenneth G. Lewis Jr.
DESIGN EDITOR Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE NEWSPAPER
H&S Battalion MCB PAO
Unit 35002
FPO AP 96373-5002

CENTRAL BUREAU
Camp Foster
DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU
Camp Hansen
DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



**Recognized by HQMC as
Best Tabloid Format
Newspaper, 2012**



Lance Cpl. Tyler R. Papalski, left, talks with Chieko Toyoshima while clearing weeds from a recreation field during an annual cleanup May 20 in Henoko. Marines volunteer each year to help members of the Henoko Senior Citizen's Association clean up Matsuda-No-Hama Beach in preparation for the annual Henoko Dragon Boat Race. Papalski is a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

Community members, Marines clean up for dragon boat race

Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

HENOKO, OKINAWA, Japan — Approximately 60 community members and Marines gathered for an annual cleanup of the Matsuda-No-Hama Beach and senior citizen's recreation field May 20 in Henoko.

Members of the Henoko Senior Citizen's Association and Marines assigned to various units at Camp Schwab cleaned up the areas in preparation for the Henoko Dragon Boat Race taking place June 2.

"This cleanup of Matsuda-No-Hama Beach is to remove all trash or debris that washed up over the past year," said Sam Epperson, a member of the Henoko Senior Citizen's Association and retired Marine sergeant major. "After we finished cleaning the beach, the Marines offered to help us clear the senior citizen's recreation field of weeds and brush."

When told Marines would be helping with the cleanup for the dragon boat race, the association members were excited and appreciative, according to Epperson.

"Henoko is one big family. The other members of the group always enjoy the chance to work with Marines," said Epperson. "Ever since my first time on Okinawa in 1965, the people of Henoko have always had a strong bond with the Marines of Camp Schwab."

"The community members always love to share their culture, and they really enjoy having the Marines out here taking part in the various festivities and events throughout the year."

The relationship is continually growing and is important to the community members

of Henoko, according to Kinjo Nobuyuki, president of the association.

"The local community has very close ties and often works hand-in-hand with service members assigned to Camp Schwab," said Nobuyuki. "It is very important to us that we continue to work with the Marines as often as we can to strengthen this relationship."

For Marines taking part in the event, the opportunity to volunteer showcases their beliefs of what good neighbors should do, according to Lance Cpl. Tyler R. Papalski, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

"To leave a place cleaner than when you arrived is a core philosophy of being a Marine," said Papalski. "I am only on Okinawa for six months with the UDP, but I have volunteered numerous times because I believe everyone should help those around them in any way possible."

It is important not only for Marines, but all service members, to go out and volunteer in their surrounding communities wherever they serve, according to Papalski.

"With this cleanup held in preparation for the dragon boat race, it shows that we not only care about the environment on Okinawa, but their traditions as well," said Papalski. "We are consistently told we are ambassadors of the U.S. during our time here on Okinawa. One of the biggest ways to show we are good ambassadors is to take the time out of our schedules and work with the community to help make Okinawa a cleaner and better place."

BRIEFS

III MEF BAND SUMMER CONCERT

The III MEF Band is hosting a concert June 1 at the Camp Foster Theater.

The first performance will be at 2 p.m. The second performance will be at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Japanese citizens without base access who would like to attend the concert must contact Masaaki Ishiki or another staff member with G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific office at 645-4220.

POST OFFICE MEMORIAL DAY HOURS

The following holiday hours will be in effect for all Marine Corps post offices in observance of Memorial Day:

- May 25: normal working hours; parcel pick up and retail services 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 26: closed
- May 27: closed
- May 28: Normal working hours; parcel pick up 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; retail services 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 637-0124.

7TH ANNUAL SCHWAB FEST

The Camp Schwab Festival 2013 will be taking place May 25 - 26 at Camp Schwab from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

The event is open to all SOFA personnel and guests from the Okinawa community.

For more information, call MCCS special events at 645-5827.

CAMP COURTNEY POOL CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

The Camp Courtney Pool will be closed for maintenance Memorial Day weekend. The pool is expected to reopen the following weekend.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Marines, sailors evacuate injured Marine from JWTC

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP GONSALVES — Marines and sailors train daily in every clime and place to sharpen their skills. They hone them to near perfection without knowing when and where they will be called upon to perform.

Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 coordinated with Marines and sailors assigned to the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, May 8 to execute a real-world medical evacuation of Lance Cpl. Robert A. Weimer after he suffered a complex fracture of his right leg.

Weimer, a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, suffered the injury while conducting training patrols in the dense jungle environment.

“I slipped off a hill and fell into a ditch where my right leg was caught, and the momentum carried me forward until it broke,” said Weimer. “The hospital corpsman at the scene applied first aid and a field-expedient splint with two bars longer than my shin and a bandage wrapped around it to immobilize my leg.”

Fortunately, the JWTC instructors are constantly training and preparing to respond to potential injuries, according to Cpl. John S. Stout, a JWTC instructor.

“Part of the training we do simulates different scenarios that could happen out here,” said Stout. “For example, the staff noncommissioned officers would tell us that someone is lost or injured, and they would inform us of the last known position. Our job would be to go out, find them, and bring them back safely.”

The training prepared them for situations like Weimer’s, and when they determined the best way to move Weimer was by aircraft, they executed flawlessly, according to Stout.

“Once we were prepared to move Weimer, we requested air support,” said Stout. “We put him on a stretcher, loaded him into an ambulance, and



Lance Cpl. Robert A. Weimer recovers from surgery at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa May 9 after suffering a complex leg fracture during training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves. Following the injury, Weimer was medically evacuated to USNH Okinawa. Weimer is a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. The CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and crew that transported Weimer are with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

cleared an area about 250 feet away to be used as a landing zone. By having all the necessary gear and constantly training in scenarios like this, we were able to effectively treat and transport Weimer.”

At the time Weimer suffered his injury, a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter was conducting mountainous terrain training in the Northern and Central Training Areas of Okinawa.

Upon receiving the request for air support and having its flight rerouted, the helicopter and crew arrived on scene in about 10 minutes, according to Capt. Paul C. Herrera, a pilot with HMM-262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

“The training the squadron was conducting came into play when we used the same procedures

to evaluate the landing zone, locate ground personnel, and coordinate with them to get Weimer on board,” said Herrera, whose squadron also conducted a successful MEDEVAC from USNS Sacagawea to USNH Okinawa May 5.

Weimer was transported to USNH Okinawa within an hour, where he underwent successful surgery later that day.

Weimer appreciates the combined efforts of the staff at JWTC, HMM-262 and the hospital.

“I wish I would not have been injured. Nonetheless, it was really incredible to see all of these units come together and perform flawlessly,” said Weimer. “My experience could have been much worse were it not for the training each of the units perform on a regular basis.”

MWSS-172 receives new commander



Brown



Clarke

Lt. Col. Nick I. Brown assumed command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. Darin J. Clarke during a ceremony at Camp Foster May 21. Clarke commanded MWSS-172 since June 2011 and will become a student at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy in Washington, D.C. Brown’s previous assignment was as the information management officer, G-3, current operations, III MEF.

HMM-262 welcomes Lt. Col. Brown



Brown



Brown

Lt. Col. Larry G. Brown assumed command of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. James J. Brown during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma May 22. James J. Brown will become the aviation branch officer for Training and Education Command, Headquarters Marine Corps. Larry G. Brown’s previous assignment was at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., where he served as the executive officer for Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I MEF.

MCAS Futenma wins best mess hall of quarter



Col. James G. Flynn, left, presents Gunnery Sgt. Juan T. Arreguin with the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Best Small-Mess Hall award of the second quarter May 15 at Mess Hall 423 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. "Everyone that works here really goes above and beyond," said Arreguin, the mess hall manager for Mess Hall 423, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, MCIPAC. Flynn is the commanding officer of MCAS Futenma, MCIPAC. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

DECOMMISSION from pg 1

according to Maj. Jason E. Donovan, the executive officer of HMM-262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The helicopters have supported a variety of missions throughout the Asia-Pacific region and all over the world for more than 50 years, including assault support, and movement of troops and supplies.

"It is one of our longest-standing aircraft and has seen service in pretty much every major conflict and disaster relief operation that Marines have been involved with since the Vietnam War," said Donovan.

While the helicopter is still

effective at completing certain missions, the MV-22B Osprey possesses higher fuel efficiency and can travel farther and faster than the CH-46E, according to Capt. Christopher R. Corbeille, a pilot with the squadron.

"Our rapid-response assistance is much better with the Osprey," said Corbeille. "With the Osprey, we can fly to almost anywhere in the Pacific theater in a matter of hours."

Even with the enhanced capabilities of the Osprey, many of the pilots feel a connection to the CH-46E similar to that of their first car since it was the first fleet aircraft they piloted, according to Capt. Joseph P. McConnell, a pilot with the squadron.

"You always remember your first car," said McConnell. "The CH-46E is still a highly capable and extremely reliable aircraft capable of completing certain missions. The Osprey has impressive new capabilities and will be a valuable asset to our squadron, but we'll still miss the CH-46E."

The CH-46E has aided HMM-262 in completing numerous missions across the globe and despite retiring the aircraft, the pilots of HMM-262 eagerly await the arrival of the new Ospreys.

"I have the absolute highest regard for the CH-46E," said Donovan. "Parting with it is a bittersweet experience, but I am looking forward to the Ospreys as well."

CASCARELLA from pg 1

"Cas enjoyed life and encouraged everyone to do the same," said Gary W. Brown, the MCAS Futenma air traffic manager. "His work ethic was second-to-none. I would describe him as a 'dog with a bone.' Once he was given a task, he would not quit working on it until it was complete. He would take the actions necessary to get things done and support the troops."

Cascarella was described as a good friend and mentor by many of his co-workers, according to Brown.

"He was a big brother and a professional colleague," said Brown. "I looked to Cas for validation and guidance. Cas was also open to the same from fellow colleagues. He was a father figure that the young troops could look to for career and life advice."

Cascarella had strong friendships with co-workers, but his commitment to mission accomplishment was always paramount, according Lt. Col. Sean P. Patak, the MCAS Futenma executive officer. As the airfield manager, Cascarella handled any and all issues pertaining to its operations.

He interacted with a variety of people from different offices and bases on a daily basis, acting as the linchpin for many moving parts.

"Cas was easy to work with but took his profession seriously," said Timothy M. Laferty, a planner with Facilities Engineer Division, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, MCIPAC.

"He always conducted himself professionally but at the same time with a great sense of humor. He knew almost everything about the airfield; after all, he had been stationed here off and on for the last 40 years."

Cascarella enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1977 and retired as a gunnery sergeant in 1997. During his many years working on MCAS Futenma, he learned a great deal about past practices and contributed to numerous improvements to the air station.

"Cas knew more about the history of MCAS Futenma than all of us who work at the air station combined," said Patak. "The projects and improvements to our installations over the years all have his fingerprints on them, and we will be forever in his debt. He has had a positive influence on countless Marines, sailors and civilians over the last couple of decades. Whoever succeeds him as the airfield manager will have some very big shoes to fill."

A ceremony in honor of Cascarella is scheduled for May 28 at 9 a.m. at Hangar 546 on MCAS Futenma.

"There really aren't enough words to describe the impact that Cas had not only on the air station but also on all of the people who have known and worked with him," said Gunnery Sgt. Terry P. Harden, an aviation operations specialist with H&HS Squadron, MCAS Futenma. "He is an iconic figure for MCAS Futenma and a legend of his time. Cas had a kind heart, and we will mourn the passing of such a great man."

DMEP from pg 1

of disaster management, bilateral response operations, planning, incident command systems, injuries and coping with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The conference brought together individuals involved in disaster response situations, according to Robert D. Eldridge, the deputy assistant chief of staff for G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"We had medical first-responders, military service members, doctors, professors and firefighters from all across Japan come to the conference," said Eldridge. "With everyone having different procedures, we can learn from each other to find the best practice. Several people at the conference were involved directly with the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami relief efforts. This brought a lot of experience to the conference and helped a great deal in planning future relief efforts."

The number of people who showed up highlighted the importance of planning for future disasters, according to Lt. Col. Hiroya Goto, an ophthalmology instructor at the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Medical School.

"I was happy about the turnout," said Goto. "I believe that, on top of the importance of planning for these efforts, more importantly is the face-to-face contact you have with your peers. It made such a difference during Operation Tomodachi to have worked beside Americans in the past. By meeting each other and then working together to help each other, you build relationships that last a lifetime."

The conference also established a relationship between the staff at the simulation center and the medical community to coordinate future joint medical exercises, according to LaBanc.

"The simulation center here is one of the most advanced in all of Asia," said LaBanc. "Our goal is to come up with a course that can integrate Japanese and American service members, as well as medical personnel from the center, into a combined training scenario. With all of those entities coming together, plus the benefits of the centers capabilities, you have a remarkable opportunity."

With the understanding that a disaster could be forthcoming, conferences like these are steps in the right direction in getting everyone prepared, according to Eldridge.

"It has been said the best way to save lives is to do it ahead of time," said Eldridge. "These conferences show we all understand that and are doing everything we can to work together in preparation for whatever happens."

9th Engineer Support Battalion prepares for

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Many Marines have served valiantly during combat operations in Afghanistan. The lessons learned are continuously passed from one generation of Marines to the next, laying the foundation for less experienced Marines to deploy to Afghanistan, complete the mission, and return home safely.

Marines with Company F, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, completed a field training exercise May 15-17 on Camps Hansen and Schwab, and the Central Training Area in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan

in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This training benefits the Marines out here because it gets all of them working together, driving the vehicles, and being able to shoot, move and communicate," said 1st Lt. Robert M. Best, the executive officer of Company F, 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The purpose of this training is to assess and evaluate this company's preparation over the past couple months."

The training consisted of familiarizing Marines with the M240B medium machine gun, applying proper convoy tactics, demilitarizing forward operating bases, and improvised explosive device detection training, according

to Cpl. Sal J. Flores Jr., an engineer equipment operator with the company. It also gives the noncommissioned officers another opportunity to lead Marines before entering a combat zone.

"Some of the Marines who have previously deployed used this exercise to enhance their military occupational specialty abilities and set the example as Marine NCOs by passing on what they have learned from prior deployments," said Flores.

The exercise also ensured that all Marines experienced the same level of training, which will allow them to operate more efficiently when they deploy because of a shared understanding of all the required mission sets.

"We started preparing for this deployment a couple months ago, and this three-day field



Cpl. Ryan D. Jones guides a front-end loader as it destroys a simulated forward operating base during a three-day predeployment field training exercise May 17 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. This training allows Marines to use hands-on techniques previously learned in a classroom setting to ensure they understand how to demilitarize forward operating bases. Jones is a heavy-equipment operator with Company F, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Lance Cpls. Bennett M. Russ, right, and Robert T. Davis, fire an M240B medium machine gun during a field training exercise May 15 at the Range 10 complex at Camp Schwab. During the exercise, the company conducted live-fire training, improvised explosive device detection training, convoy movements and forward operating base demilitarization to prepare for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Russ is a combat engineer with Company F, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Davis is a motor transport operator with the company.

or deployment to Afghanistan

exercise was definitely beneficial for us," said Pfc. Lukkas A. Lambert, a combat engineer with the company. "It was more hands-on training ... the rainy weather was a test for us, but I think we all passed."

Although the weather conditions were harsh at times, the Marines made the best of it by focusing harder on the training events, especially when they executed the IED detection training.

"There were three different lanes that the Marines observed during the detection training portion," said Best. "They responded well with the patrolling and sending up reports of any simulated IEDs that were found as they went through the event."

Coupling the IED detection and FOB

demilitarization training, the Marines felt prepared to complete any mission during their upcoming deployment.

"I don't know what other training we could do to better prepare us for this deployment," said Lambert. "We're tearing down a simulated forward operating base, which is what we're going to be doing once we're there."

As the training ended, the Marines of Company F walked away with a better understanding of their future mission.

"At the end of the exercise, I felt confident in saying the Marines are fully prepared for this deployment," said Best. "The new and old Marines with the company will perform well during our deployment."



Lance Cpl. Bennett M. Russ smashes parts of a building frame, demilitarizing a simulated forward operating base, during a field training exercise May 17 at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Marines conducted the training May 15-17 in preparation for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Marines plant rice May 4 in Wasaku Tatsumichi's rice paddy at Gotemba, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. Several Marines assigned to Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, rolled up their pant legs and stood ankle-deep in muddy water to plant rice with members of the Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association. The purpose of the event was to reinforce good relations between Marines and members of the neighboring community.

Marines get muddy during rice-planting event

Story and photos by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Many years ago, farmers planted and harvested their crops through long hours of manual labor. But, in today's world the processes have been industrialized through myriad innovations to keep up with supply and demand. However, there are farmers who still practice the age-old art of planting their crops by hand.

This was demonstrated May 4 when more than a dozen Marines volunteered to plant rice at a local farm in Gotemba, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. The event was part of the Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association's ongoing community outreach program, which Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, has been a part of for several years.

"We interact with the Japanese people as much as possible to learn from them and maintain positive relations," said Capt. Robert D. Dodson, the Headquarters Company commander, Camp Fuji. "With our base so close to the town, it's extremely important for us to interact with our Japanese hosts."

The event also served as a way for Marines to learn about the local economy and participate in traditional planting.

"Gotemba is famous for rice called Gotemba Koshihikari, which is locally grown rice irrigated with spring water from Mount Fuji," said Shinichi Nakano, the chairman of the Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association. "One of the friendship association members owns a rice field and wanted Camp Fuji Marines to experience the unique Japanese agricultural tradition. Since the field is close to Camp Fuji, Marines can see how the rice grows whenever they pass it going to and from Gotemba. The Marines will also be invited to help



Col. Blake M. Wilson, second from right, eats Japanese cuisine May 4 at Gotemba, Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. Wilson, along with approximately 20 Marines, joined members of the Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association to help a local farmer plant his seasonal rice crop. After the rice was planted, association members treated Marines to a smorgasbord of Japanese food and friendly conversation to thank the Marines for volunteering. Wilson is the commanding officer of Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

harvest the rice in November and will even get to taste the rice they planted."

After all of the rice was planted, members of the Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association prepared a variety of traditional foods for their guests to thank them for their hard work.

"I love getting muddy and working with my hands, but the most rewarding part of the experience was being able to see the field full of little rice plants when we were finished," said Pfc. Collin J. McQuade, a supply administration and operations specialist with Headquarters Co., Camp Fuji. "The food they made for us was interesting. They had candied anchovies, sushi, wild boar meat and even raw deer meat."

The Fuji U.S.-Japan Friendship Association

has hosted this event in the past, and some Marines at Camp Fuji have been fortunate enough to participate more than once.

"This is the second time I've been able to do this," said Dodson. "It is a rewarding experience."

Although it is a seemingly small event, the Marines and association members see a larger picture. The strong relationship between the Marines and community can continue reinforcing bonds between the two nations, according to Nakano.

Dodson agrees and hopes Marines will continue to embrace the rare opportunity.

"Hopefully the Marines will see that it is not so difficult to get off base, interact with the Japanese, and enjoy participating in their traditions," said Dodson.

Marines launch grenades during live-fire exercise

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Plumes of dirt rose into the air as grenades detonated on impact and sent a thunderous echo throughout the secluded Central Training Area near Camp Hansen.

Marines with General Support Motor Transport Company honed their skills during a live-fire training exercise May 14.

Approximately 40 Marines with the company, which is part of Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, fired the MK19 40 mm grenade launcher, M203 grenade launcher and the M32 semiautomatic grenade launcher to familiarize themselves with the different weapons systems.

"The training allows the Marines to step out of their normal jobs and become familiar with various weapons systems they could employ within a combat environment," said 2nd Lt. Kathleen E. Hill, a platoon commander with the company. "Training with weapons is an effective way to build combat readiness by instilling confidence."

Hands-on training is the most



2nd Lt. Leanne Ferrell fires an M32 semiautomatic grenade launcher May 14 during a live-fire training exercise at the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. The weapon is a shoulder-fired, semi-automatic, six-shot grenade launcher capable of firing 40 mm grenades. Ferrell is the executive officer of General Support Motor Transport Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

effective way to learn the armaments rather than memorizing weapon-system functions in a classroom, according to Hill.

"The Marines had great instructors educating them about weapon control, conditions and actions to clear stoppages that could happen," said Hill. "The Marines fired 1,200 rounds: 600 were 40 mm practice grenades and 600 were 40 mm high-explosive, dual-purpose grenades."

Firing and understanding the capabilities of a vast array of weapons is one of the Marine Corps' distinguishing characteristics.

However, the training is not just about the skill of shooting but working to internalize the warrior mind-set necessary to be prepared to fight at any given moment.

"Every Marine is a rifleman, and it is important to continue developing our warfighting skills, especially since we take

pride in being the first to fight," said Cpl. Jacob D. Rogers, a motor vehicle operator with the company. "It is imperative to be prepared to fight tonight, and it is paramount to maintain an operational mind-set."

Having multiple opportunities to work with the weapons systems pave the road for success in a combat zone because the decisions originate from the fundamentals of this training, according to Rogers.

The training is vital for operational readiness, especially for some of the junior Marines who are participating in the live-fire exercise for the first time with the company.

"This is awesome," said Pfc. Alexis O. Lazo, a motor vehicle operator with the company. "I have been on Okinawa for three weeks, and I have already had the chance to fire many different types of grenade launchers."

Overall, when training with weapons systems, rehearsals are crucial in becoming skilled with various grenade launchers and increase the company's ability to operate across a broad spectrum of missions in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Hill.

3rd Medical Battalion performs tactical combat casualty care

Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Combat is filled with conditions that cause exhaustion and confusion, but Marines and sailors at the tip of the spear are trained to thrive under these conditions and expected to complete their mission.

Sailors with 3rd Medical Battalion participated in tactical combat casualty care training May 13-16 on Camp Foster to ensure they are prepared to handle battlefield trauma.

"TCCC is performed so whenever a corpsman deploys they possess the knowledge and understand the procedures they will need in order to help the Marines," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael D. Cox, a course instructor and hospital corpsman with the battalion, which is part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The four-day course consisted of three days of classes and practical application and a fourth day to test the skills of the sailors.

"We go over a variety of subjects during the course," said Cox. "We teach a variety of triage procedures, such as hemorrhaging

control, tourniquet techniques, treatment of shock, and how to move casualties away from any immediate danger."

Corpsmen must complete the course annually in order to maintain proficiency and remain prepared to respond appropriately to a vast array of contingencies across the region, according to Cox.

"Having perishable skills routinely refreshed and improved is vital to a corpsman's role as a versatile member of the Navy and Marine Corps team," said Petty Officer 1st Class James A. Ryan, an independent duty corpsman with the battalion.

"Their job is to provide point of injury assistance as soon as possible, and TCCC helps make sure they are capable of doing that."

The training is especially important to the sailors stationed on Okinawa because of their

unique role throughout the Asia-Pacific region, according to Ryan.

"The sailors need to be prepared to provide care in any situation," said Ryan. "Due to the amount of places we go and the presence we have in the region, it is important that we are always ready."

During the training, sailors performed

calisthenics before low-crawling to screaming simulated casualties. Those screams, coupled with the instructors' deafening shouts, created an atmosphere that closely resembles a combat situation.

"I think the most important part of this training is realizing the seriousness of it," said Cox. "We try to make it as real as possible to make sure they do not forget the skills they have when they are put under pressure."

Through all of the mayhem, it is important for the corpsmen to remember the order in which to provide care, according to Ryan.

"We have a certain order that we use to quickly tend to patients," said Ryan. "We stop any major bleeding first because if a patient loses too much blood there is little we can do to help. If there are no major wounds then we turn to the airways because tending to injuries is pointless if they cannot breathe."

Many of the participants learned that patience is the key to remembering the skills and correct order of care, according to Seaman Cody A. Smith, a hospital corpsman with the battalion.

"Any time you are faced with an encounter that you are not sure of, it is important to take a deep breath, relax and rely on your training," said Smith. "That is the most important thing I have learned through this training. Be patient ... we are faced with situations that would cause many people to freeze, but we are taught how to react because someone's life could depend on it."

"Having perishable skills routinely refreshed and improved is vital to a corpsman's role as a versatile member of the Navy and Marine Corps team."

Petty Officer 1st Class James A. Ryan

Marines, sailors reflect during Iwo Jima visit

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the rain trickled down on a cloudy day, Marines trudged along a muddy path on an island where decades before so many had made the ultimate sacrifice.

Approximately 120 Marines and sailors visited the island of Iwo Jima, which was renamed Iwo To in 2007, during a professional military education tour May 17.

The event provided an opportunity for the Marines and sailors of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, to see, experience and evaluate the incredible challenges Japanese and American troops endured during the Battle of Iwo Jima as

part of the Pacific campaign of World War II.

"There is a lot of history on this island that not everyone is aware of," said Staff Sgt. Jason L. Day, a wire chief with MWCS-18. "If they look at this ground from the perspective of someone during that battle, it will be easier for the Marines to understand and truly respect our Corps' history."

Shortly following their arrival on the island, the Marines and sailors hiked up Mount Suribachi, the ground made famous by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's photograph of five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag atop the mountain in 1945.

"Suribachi was one of the strongest defensive positions occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army," said Staff Sgt. Patrick G. Kawano, a motor transport chief with MWCS-18. "The defenders



Marines and sailors sit on the beach with their eyes closed in reflection while Staff Sgt. Jason L. Day details the Battle of Iwo Jima during their visit May 17. During the visit, Marines and sailors took time to reflect and envision the events that transpired during the battle. Day and the Marines and sailors are assigned to Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

were able to survive multiple days of naval bombardment and aerial bombings before attempting to repel the Marines. That puts into perspective how difficult it was for the Marines fighting on the island."

Upon reaching the precipice of Suribachi, the visitors reflected on the sacrifices made by warriors on both sides during the historic battle. To demonstrate the connection to their fallen comrades, Marines and sailors left memorabilia such as dog tags and rank insignias on monuments at the mountain's peak. The unit also held an awards and re-enlistment ceremony atop Suribachi.

"It was my distinct pleasure in recognizing Marines and sailors for their hard work at a place like this," said Lt. Col. Bret A. Bolding, the commanding officer of MWCS-18. "It's the embodiment

of leadership and what the Marine Corps is all about."

The Marines also took time to pause at the shoreline of the island to discuss and envision the events that transpired in the fateful battle.

"When you think about what the Marines before us did, what they sacrificed here in the battle, it opens your eyes to the conditions then," said Kawano. "It's important not to forget who came before us and not to forget where we come from."

For many of the Marines and sailors visiting the island, this was the first and possibly last time they will be able to visit Iwo To, according to Day.

"Being able to come here is always good for Marines and sailors," said Day. "It allows them to further their professional education and maintain a tangible connection to Marine Corps history."



Personal mementos symbolize the respect generations of service members have paid during their visit to the summit of Mount Suribachi, located on Iwo To. Suribachi is where five Marines and a Navy corpsman famously raised the American flag, signaling the successful seizure of the northern end of the island.

Marines and sailors hike to Mount Suribachi May 17 during their visit to Iwo To. Formerly known as Iwo Jima, the island is the site of one of World War II's most famous battles, and is symbolic of the unwavering determination displayed by Marines during combat. The Marines are with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



In Theaters Now

MAY 24 - 30

FOSTER

TODAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 and 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Escape from Planet Earth (PG), noon; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.; Olympus Has Fallen (R), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Croods (PG), 1 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY The Croods (PG), 1 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Snitch (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 p.m.; Scary Movie 5 (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), noon and 4 p.m.; Pain and Gain (R), 8 p.m.
SUNDAY The Croods (PG), noon; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.
MONDAY The Croods (PG), 3 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY 21 & Over (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Scary Movie 5 (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Croods (PG), 3 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Croods (PG), 3 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 11:30 a.m.; Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 21 & Over (R), 4 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Croods (PG), 12:30 p.m.; Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Peeples (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Snitch (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 and 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 3 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 6 p.m.; Olympus Has Fallen (R), 9 p.m.
TUESDAY The Great Gatsby (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Olympus Has Fallen (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Star Trek Into Darkness (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

MCAS FUTENMA POOL PARTY

• There will be a free pool party open to all single Marines and sailors on Futenma June 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food and drinks will be free of charge. For more information, call the SMP at the phone number above.

DISCOVER GOLF LESSONS

• Golf lessons are available to single Marines and sailors at Taiyo Golf Course the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. Participants meet at the Camp Foster SMP office by 8 a.m.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What Marine program began in 2001 to emphasize the three core attributes: knowledge, physical fitness, and character?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

During which battle did 1st Lt. Kurt Chew-Een Lee, the first USMC officer of Asian descent, earn the Navy Cross?

ANSWER:

During The Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, a frozen campaign that saw 25,000 U.S. forces fight their way past approximately 120,000 enemies.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Ikura desuka?”

(pronounced: ee-koo-rah dehs-kah)

It means, “How much (money)?”

CHAPLAINS'

OPINION

“To err is human, to forgive, divine.”



Forgiveness reveals positive outlooks

Lt. Cmdr. Aaron C. Carlton

MCB CAMP BUTLER H&S BATTALION CHAPLAIN

I suffer from a condition I like to call, “foot-in-mouth” disease. Sometimes during flare-ups, I find myself putting my foot in my mouth several times a week. Recently, several flare-ups reminded me of an essential teaching from my spiritual heritage: forgiveness.

As it turns out, forgiveness plays an important role in many faiths. The vast majority of the world's religions and cultures place high importance on forgiveness and reconciliation. The universality of forgiveness suggests that the need to be forgiven and to forgive is indispensable to who we are as people. It is as though each culture has a way of acknowledging that being human and living among humans is a messy prospect. The sad truth is we will offend and be offended, and we need a process by which our relationships can be repaired.

In looking at some of the various teachings, some commonalities of that very

process emerge: contrition and remorse, confession and apology, making amends or penance, restoration and reconciliation. These elements highlight a healthy framework for dealing with one another. When it comes to our spouse, children and loved ones, are we willing to take the first step in admitting when we are wrong? With our co-workers or friends, are we willing to be gracious and forgiving when we perceive a wrong against us?

We can never un-ring a bell. We cannot unspeak words that have been spoken. We cannot undo acts that have been done. Most amends that we can make are, in reality, simply tokens of our sincerity and remorse.

Forgiveness is a gift that an offender does not deserve, but it is something that can only be freely given by the one who has been offended. Yet in this free act, when bestowing forgiveness on someone who cannot earn it, we find all that is best and brightest. We truly understand what the poet meant when he wrote the words, “To err is human, to forgive, divine.”

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”